

FOR NATIONAL PHASE SUBMISSION

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A surge protector~~-(1)~~ comprising a spark gap~~-(2)~~, which has mutually opposite electrodes~~-(3)~~, a trigger circuit~~-(5)~~ for triggering the spark gap~~-(2)~~ and a light source~~-(14)~~, which is connected to a protective device~~-(13)~~, at ground potential for generating a trigger light, which can be supplied to a reception unit of the trigger circuit by means of at least one optical waveguide~~-(15)~~, the spark gap~~-(2)~~ and the trigger circuit~~-(5)~~ being at a high-voltage potential, characterized in that~~wherein~~

the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor component~~-(16)~~, which can be moved over, by means of the trigger light, from an off position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component~~-(16)~~ is interrupted, to an on position, in which a current flow via the power semiconductor component~~-(16)~~ is made possible.

2. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ surge protector~~-(1)~~ ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, characterized in that~~wherein~~

the power semiconductor components are in the form of thyristors~~-(16)~~ which are connected in opposition and can be triggered optically.

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3. (Currently Amended) A surge protector according to claim 1,

~~wherein The surge protector (1) as claimed in claim 1 or 2,~~  
~~characterized in that~~

the trigger circuit—(5) has a capacitive voltage divider—~~(7, 8)~~, which has a capacitor—~~(8)~~ which can be bridged by means of the power semiconductor components—~~(16)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A surge protector according to claim 1,

~~wherein The surge protector (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~

~~characterized in that~~

the trigger circuit—(5) is connected to a trigger electrode—(6), whose distance from a first electrode—(3) of the spark gap—(2) is less than the distance between the first electrode—(3) and a second electrode—(3) opposite it, it being possible for the electrical potential of the second electrode—(3) to be applied to the trigger electrode—(6) by means of the trigger circuit—(5).

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5. (Currently Amended) A surge protector according to claim 1,  
wherein~~The surge protector (1) as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,~~  
~~characterized in that~~  
the spark gap~~(2)~~ has at least two pairs of mutually opposite electrodes~~(3)~~, which are arranged in a series circuit with respect to one another, the capacitor~~(8)~~ which can be bridged being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite electrodes~~(3)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A surge protector according to claim 1,  
wherein~~The surge protector (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims,~~  
~~characterized in that~~  
the spark gap~~(2)~~ and the trigger circuit~~(5)~~ are arranged on a platform~~(4)~~ which is supported in an insulated manner by means of supports and is designed to bear components which are provided for the purpose of improving the power transmission in an energy distribution system.

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7.     **(New)** A surge protector comprising:  
a spark gap comprising mutually opposite electrodes,  
a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap, and  
a light source coupled with a protective device and being  
at ground potential for generating a trigger light, wherein the  
trigger light can be fed to a reception unit of the trigger  
circuit by at least one optical waveguide, wherein the spark  
gap and the trigger circuit are at a high-voltage potential,  
wherein the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor  
component which can be switched by the trigger light from an  
off position, in which a current flow via the power  
semiconductor component is interrupted, to an on position, in  
which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is  
made possible.

8.     **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 7,  
wherein the power semiconductor components are in the form  
of thyristors which are connected in opposition and can be  
triggered optically.

9.     **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 7,  
wherein the trigger circuit has a capacitive voltage  
divider, which has a capacitor which can be bridged by means of  
the power semiconductor components.

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10. **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 7,  
wherein the trigger circuit is connected to a trigger  
electrode, whose distance from a first electrode of the spark  
gap is less than the distance between the first electrode and a  
second electrode opposite it, it being possible for the  
electrical potential of the second electrode to be applied to  
the trigger electrode by means of the trigger circuit.

11. **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 7,  
wherein the spark gap has at least two pairs of mutually  
opposite electrodes, which are arranged in a series circuit  
with respect to one another, the capacitor which can be bridged  
being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite  
electrodes.

12. **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 7,  
wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are arranged  
on a platform which is supported in an insulated manner by  
means of supports and is designed to bear components which are  
provided for the purpose of improving the power transmission in  
an energy distribution system.

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13. (New) A surge protector comprising:  
a spark gap comprising mutually opposite electrodes,  
a trigger circuit for triggering the spark gap, and  
a light source coupled with a protective device and being  
at ground potential for generating a trigger light, wherein the  
trigger light can be fed to a reception unit of the trigger  
circuit by at least one optical waveguide, wherein the spark  
gap and the trigger circuit are at a high-voltage potential,  
wherein the reception unit has at least one power semiconductor  
component which can be switched by the trigger light from an  
off position, in which a current flow via the power  
semiconductor component is interrupted, to an on position, in  
which a current flow via the power semiconductor component is  
made possible, and wherein the power semiconductor  
components are in the form of thyristors which are connected in  
opposition and can be triggered optically.

14. (New) A surge protector according to claim 13,  
wherein the trigger circuit has a capacitive voltage  
divider, which has a capacitor which can be bridged by means of  
the power semiconductor components.

15. (New) A surge protector according to claim 13,  
wherein the trigger circuit is connected to a trigger  
electrode, whose distance from a first electrode of the spark  
gap is less than the distance between the first electrode and a  
second electrode opposite it, it being possible for the  
electrical potential of the second electrode to be applied to  
the trigger electrode by means of the trigger circuit.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
071308.0713  
2004P00052WOUS

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16. **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 13,  
wherein the spark gap has at least two pairs of mutually  
opposite electrodes, which are arranged in a series circuit  
with respect to one another, the capacitor which can be bridged  
being connected in parallel with a pair of mutually opposite  
electrodes.

17. **(New)** A surge protector according to claim 13,  
wherein the spark gap and the trigger circuit are arranged  
on a platform which is supported in an insulated manner by  
means of supports and is designed to bear components which are  
provided for the purpose of improving the power transmission in  
an energy distribution system.